

# Connecting Wisconsin

Volume 25, Issue 4  
Fall, 2015



A Publication from the Autism Society of Wisconsin

## Message from the President

Welcome to the Autism Society of Wisconsin. As your President I've been in my position now for just over six months, and it has been an exciting start to my tenure. Coming off the heels of our highly successful Annual Conference held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, we've had several campaigns to raise funds to continue supporting our community.

One of the highly successful campaigns was the "Big Give for Autism". We had 39 individual donors and raised a total of \$2,940. This includes the corporate matching gift pledged by Wisconsin Early Autism Project (WEAP) of \$1,000. I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your generous contributions. I would also like to thank those that helped get the word out through their social media networks and personal relationships. We couldn't have been as successful as we were without your efforts.



As I stated, we had a very successful conference this last April with the help of our very popular speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin. If you were able to attend you can attest to the excitement of her being at the conference. This April we will also have another very dynamic speaker, Barry Prizant, author of *Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism*. We are very excited to have him join us and I encourage each of you to mark your calendars for our next Annual Conference, April 7-9, 2016 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

Here's some background on Barry's book: <http://barryprizant.com/uniquely-human/>

Judy Endow writes about the book in her September blog: <http://www.judyendow.com/advocacy/uniquely-human-neurotribe/>

Until next time, thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to give back to an organization that once was such a help to this newly diagnosed family, and continues to support and provide education and services to a community that has so much to contribute to our society.

Respectfully,

Michael Riemer

### Reminder—IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Please note that beginning in January of 2016, the Autism Society of Wisconsin printed newsletter, *Connecting Wisconsin*, will be sent to Autism Society of Wisconsin members only. To continue receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, please become a member by completing the member application on page 7. An electronic version of the newsletter will still be available to everyone. If you'd like to join our email list or if you're not sure if you're a member, contact Kelly at [asw@asw4autism.org](mailto:asw@asw4autism.org) or 920-558-4602.

### In This Issue:

Webinar Series	2
OAR'S Autism Sibling Support Initiative	3
2016 Annual Conference	4
Call for Proposals	5
Local Affiliate Contact Information	6
Membership Application	7

# Webinar Series



## **ASD Unplugged: Managing Internet, Gaming, and Social Networking use in Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**Presented by: Madeline Barger, LMFT**

**October 26, 2015; 12-1 pm**

Do you ever feel like your child or young adult with ASD is permanently plugged in to "the grid"? Having ASD is challenging on its own, but having ASD in an age where electronics, social networking, gaming, and internet use are prevalent and pervasive comes with added concerns for safety, physical health, and psychological health. This session will explore the physiological and psychological impact of the internet, social networking, adult content and gaming on childhood and adolescence in general, and for individuals with autism in particular. Online safety and strategies for managing internet use will be discussed. Session participants will leave the session with a great understanding of:

- Exploration of popular internet groups and sites for children, teens & young adults
- Impact of internet, social networking, adult content and gaming on children's physiological and psychological development
- How the neurology of ASD compounds these developmental impacts
- Unique online safety concerns for individuals with ASD
- Strategies for managing internet use and limiting negative impact

To register, visit <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=85gnjuo7skwp>

---

## **Crisis Safety for the ASD Population**

**Presented by: Scott Fowler**

**November 4, 2015; 9:00-10:00 am**

This webinar will address primary, secondary and tertiary safety concerns that commonly affect the autism community. Particularly there will be an emphasis on managing elopement/wandering, positively interfacing with law enforcement and first responders, how to facilitate discussions with school staff to ensure your child's safety, bullying and how to manage this in the school and community safely. The webinar will run 45 minutes and will have an additional 15 minutes for questions.

### **About the Presenter:**

Scott Fowler has worked in public education for over two decades, serving as a teacher, lead teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal and working in a central office capacity. Additionally, he is the parent of a child on the spectrum. He has provided trainings for parents, teachers/educators, the hospitality industry, law enforcement/first responders and other enterprises that benefit from a better understanding of autism awareness.

**Register here:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=ml91ppgg8lg>

---

Recently archived webinars include

## **Partnering with Your Doctor**

Presented by: Kara Van Vooren, Northeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Recorded on August 13, 2015

<http://www.asw4autism.org/Ready%20Talk/Partnering%20with%20Your%20Doctor/lib/playback.html>

# OAR'S Autism Sibling Support Initiative

Siblings of children with autism are in a unique position. They face challenges (similar to those that parents encounter), but at a time before they've developed appropriate coping strategies. As a result, they need support to ensure that they're informed, feel respected, and know how to be compassionate advocates for their brothers and sisters on the spectrum.

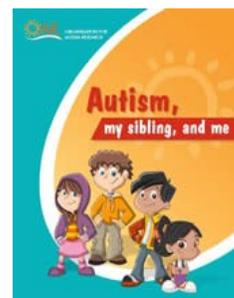
OAR's "Autism Sibling Support" initiative offers guidance for young children, teenagers and parents on how to productively address the ups and downs that may arise for individuals who have a brother or sister with autism. To kick off the initiative, OAR has produced three resources, each with a different audience. Click the titles below to view/download/print them!

Hard copies of our sibling resources are available!

If you're interested in receiving a copy, please fill out an order form. To order more than one copy of each, email [programs@researchautism.org](mailto:programs@researchautism.org) with the title(s) of the resource you'd like in the subject line.

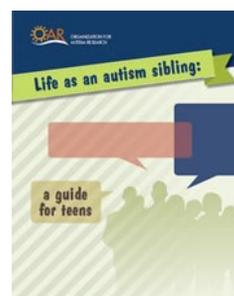
For Young Children:

Autism, My Sibling, and Me ([http://www.researchautism.org/family/familysupport/documents/OAR\\_YoungSiblingsResource.pdf](http://www.researchautism.org/family/familysupport/documents/OAR_YoungSiblingsResource.pdf)) is a fun and engaging workbook for children between the ages of 5 and 10. A host of colorful cartoon characters accompany these siblings as they learn about what autism means for their brother or sister – and handle potentially stressful issues. Through fun activities and supportive content, this resource also helps children work through any autism-related questions they may have.



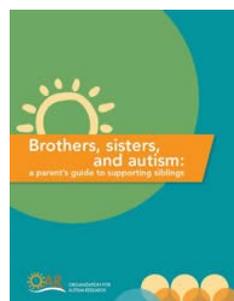
For Teenagers:

Life as an Autism Sibling: A Guide for Teens ([http://www.researchautism.org/family/familysupport/documents/OAR\\_TeenSiblingsResource.pdf](http://www.researchautism.org/family/familysupport/documents/OAR_TeenSiblingsResource.pdf)) is a handbook for teenage (and even pre-teen) siblings that offers guidance on how to productively address feelings and challenges that may arise as an autism sibling. The resource covers a variety of topics; from explaining autism to friends and peers, to coping with a family dynamic that's different from what friends may experience. It also features testimonials from other teenage and young adult siblings who have "been there, done that."



For Parents:

Brothers, Sisters, and Autism: A Parent's Guide ([http://www.researchautism.org/family/familysupport/documents/OAR\\_SiblingResource\\_Parents\\_2015.pdf](http://www.researchautism.org/family/familysupport/documents/OAR_SiblingResource_Parents_2015.pdf)) addresses topics that range from dealing with perceived discrepancies in fairness to facilitating a positive relationship between siblings. The guide also includes testimonials from parents and siblings who deal with similar issues.



## IHE Database

Every technical college, UW system college, and private college has a disability resource center which can assist you with questions about the types of supports and services, as well as possible accommodations offered, in college. The IHE Database is an online list of college disability resource center contacts. <http://ihe.wspei.org/>

# 2016 Autism Society of Wisconsin Conference Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells



## Robert Pennington, Ph.D., BCBA–D Creating a Climate for Competency: An Instructional Approach to Challenging Behavior Preconference Workshop, April 7

Challenging behavior serves as one of the greatest barriers to learners with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. In this fun and engaging workshop, participants learn how to design programs that build critical skills while reducing an individual's need to engage in problem behavior. Participants will learn key elements of functional assessment, how to design instructional programs and behavior intervention plans, and how to deliver staff training. In addition, we will emphasize the role of communication in behavioral assessment and teach participants how to design programs that incorporate functional communication training.

## Barry Prizant, Ph.D, CCC–SLP

### Uniquely Human–A Different Way of Seeing Autism Keynote Address, April 8



Autism is usually portrayed as a checklist of deficits, including difficulties interacting socially, problems in communicating, sensory challenges, and repetitive behavior patterns. This perspective leads to therapies focused on ridding individuals of "autistic" symptoms. Now Dr. Barry M. Prizant, an internationally renowned autism expert, offers a new and compelling paradigm: the most successful approaches to autism don't aim at fixing a person by eliminating symptoms, but rather seeking to understand the individual's experience and what underlies the behavior.

In *Uniquely Human*, Dr. Prizant suggests a major shift in understanding autism: Instead of classifying "autistic" behaviors as signs of pathology, he sees them as part of a range of strategies to cope with a world that feels chaotic and overwhelming. Rather than curb these behaviors, it's better to enhance abilities, build on strengths, and offer supports that will naturally lead to more desirable behavior and a better quality of life. In fact, argues Dr. Prizant, attempts to eliminate "autistic" behaviors may actually interfere with important developmental processes.

## Amy Vaughan Van Hecke, Ph.D Examining Neuroplasticity in ASD: Response to Evidence–Based Intervention and Indicators of Mental Health Keynote Address, April 9

Many intervention and therapy programs available today, for people with and without ASD, report to change the brain. But how true are these claims? This talk will examine the research evidence for neuroplasticity due to evidence-based interventions for ASD. Connections will be drawn between neural changes and changes in mood and mental health, as an overall indicator of increased quality of life due to effective therapies.

# Call for Proposals

We are currently accepting proposals. The purpose of the conference is to provide a wide range of information to those affected by autism, including those who are new to autism and those who have years of experience. Breakout sessions take place on Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9, lasting one hour and fifteen minutes each.

We're looking for presentations on topics affecting those with autism at all ages, from early childhood through adulthood. Of particular interest are submissions that include practical strategies and include the following content: evidence based practices, challenging behaviors, positive behavior support, bullying, interventions using technology, issues affecting teens & young adults, aging with autism, single parenting and more. Be creative!

The Call for Proposal form is available on our conference page at [www.asw4autism.org/conferences\\_workshops.html](http://www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops.html). If you have any questions, email [mvandevelden@asw4autism.org](mailto:mvandevelden@asw4autism.org) or call 920-973-6636. All proposals are due by Friday, November 15, 2105

This year we are offering new sponsor levels for the Annual Conference. Visit the conference website for more information, along with details on advertising and exhibit space.

Questions? Contact Melissa at [mvandevelden@asw4autism.org](mailto:mvandevelden@asw4autism.org).



## Parent & Family Research at the Waisman Center

There are opportunities for parents and families to participate in research at the Waisman Center, in Madison. We've selected a few, but there are more studies available at <https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/PIR-studies-autism.htm>

### Family Outcomes and Autism Spectrum Disorder

**PURPOSE:** To: 1) examine the well-being and marital quality of parents of children with autism (or autism spectrum disorder) and 2) examine family factors that impact the well-being of children with autism.

**WHO:** We are looking for parents of children aged 5 to 12 years with autism. Both spouses participate in the study.

**WHAT:** The study involves a 2-hour session at the Waisman Center or your home to complete questionnaires. We will also videotape you and your spouse having a conversation. You and your spouse will then complete a 14-day diary in which you answer questions about your day (takes 5-10 mins per day). You and your spouse will each be paid \$125.

For more information, please contact the Hartley Lab at 608.262.8860 or [hartleylab@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:hartleylab@waisman.wisc.edu), (<http://hartleylab.wordpress.com/>).

### Parents of Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder

We are recruiting families for an education and support program for parents of adolescents with ASD between the ages of 15 and 18. Parents will attend 8 weekly group meetings with other families to receive information on autism across the life course, transition planning, legal issues, and other topics. Families will also be able to discuss and problem-solve specific concerns they may have related to their child. The study will consist of initial and exit interviews, parent sessions, and a social skills group for teens.

To participate, the teenager with ASD needs to live at home and currently be enrolled in high school. Both parents would need to be able to participate.

To find out more, please contact Leann Smith, PhD at 608.890.1390 or [lsmith@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:lsmith@waisman.wisc.edu).

# AUTISM SOCIETY

## AFFILIATES

FOR UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT YOUR AFFILIATE'S WEBSITE

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF CENTRAL WI

[autismsocietycw@gmail.com](mailto:autismsocietycw@gmail.com)

715-370-0987

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY

[www.cvasw.org](http://www.cvasw.org)

[info@cvasw.org](mailto:info@cvasw.org)

715-450-3158

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE FOX VALLEY

[www.autismfoxvalley.org](http://www.autismfoxvalley.org)

[asfu4kids@gmail.com](mailto:asfu4kids@gmail.com)

920-968-6829

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE LAKESHORE

[www.autismlakeshore.org](http://www.autismlakeshore.org)

[autismlakeshore@att.net](mailto:autismlakeshore@att.net)

920-652-0964

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF NORTHEAST WI

[www.asnew.org](http://www.asnew.org)

[administrator@asnew.org](mailto:administrator@asnew.org)

920-264-8067

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF SOUTH CENTRAL WI

[www.autismsouthcentral.org](http://www.autismsouthcentral.org)

[autismsouthcentral@gmail.com](mailto:autismsouthcentral@gmail.com)

608-630-9147

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF SOUTHEASTERN WI

[www.assew.org](http://www.assew.org)

[info@assew.org](mailto:info@assew.org)

414-988-1260

## Giving Opportunities

Invest in the future of the Autism Society of Wisconsin!

Explore all the ways to give:

- **Employee/Matching Gifts** – Many employers encourage employees to give by matching employee gifts dollar-for-dollar. Check with your human resource department to find out more.
- **Honorary** – Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion with a gift honoring a spouse, friend, family member or other loved one.
- **Memorial** – Memorial gifts made to the Autism Society of Wisconsin are to celebrate and honor the life of a loved one.
- **Planned Giving** – Receive tax and other financial benefits while giving to the Autism Society. Plan a gift for the future by working with a financial advisor to set up an IRA Charitable Rollover, trust or bequest, or beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy.
- **Unrestricted Giving** – Give a cash donation that allows us to fund programs which need it most. Donations can be mailed to the ASW office or can be made online through our Network for Good site, accessed from our home page: [www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org).

Autism Society of Wisconsin  
1477 Kenwood Dr.  
Menasha, WI 54952

Please call our office for more information on any of these giving opportunities.

For office use only
Date Rec'd _____
Check # _____
Amount \$ _____

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  ASW is going green! To receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please check here

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) shares membership with the local Autism Society affiliates listed below. By checking a local affiliate, you will join both the state and local affiliate and receive member benefits from both. To become a member of only the state chapter, leave this section blank. To become a member of the Autism Society of America, the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin and/or the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin and to find out more about their membership benefits, please contact them separately.

**Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV)**  
 Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca Counties

**Autism Society of Central Wisconsin (ASCW)**  
 Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor and Wood Counties.

**Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL)**  
 Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties

**Autism Society of Chippewa Valley (CVAS)**  
 Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

**Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW)**  
 Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menomonie and Marinette Counties.

Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin,  
 (608) 630-9147 or autismsouthcentral@gmail.com  
 Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin, www.asew.org or  
 (414) 988-1260.  
 Autism Society of America, www.autism-society.org or  
 1-800-3-autism.

Membership Categories : Individual (\$12) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

*(Select one)*

*(Select one)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bill my Master Card/VISA Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed, check # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a \$10 contribution towards the cost of the newsletter—thank you!

Additional contribution (tax deductible).

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ (Other)

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

**Autism Society of Wisconsin**  
**1477 Kenwood Drive**  
**Menasha, WI 54952**  
**Fax (920) 558-4611**

*If you have questions, email ASW at [asw@asw4autism.org](mailto:asw@asw4autism.org) or call 888-428-8476.*

Autism Society of Wisconsin  
1-888-4-AUTISM (WI only)  
1477 Kenwood Drive  
Menasha, WI 54952

NONPROFIT  
US Postage  
PAID  
Appleton, WI  
Permit No. 188

Return Service Requested



Help us fulfill our mission!

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin by making a tax deductible gift! All donations are appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Other

Donations may be sent to:  
Autism Society of Wisconsin  
1477 Kenwood Drive  
Menasha, WI 54952

We also accept donations online . Click the Donate Now button on our  
homepage: [www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org)

Thank you for your support!

### Board of Directors

**President**

Mike Riemer

**President Elect**

Robert Peyton

**Treasurer:**

Kerry Hoops

**Secretary**

Bobbi Wagner

**Past President**

Michele Matz

**Members At Large**

Kendra Mateni

Kerry Hoops

Robert Peyton

**Affiliate Representatives:**

**Fox Valley**

Michele Matz

**Lakeshore**

Kelly Shariff

**Northeast WI**

Chippewa Valley

Bobbi Wagner

**Central WI**

Dale Prah

### Staff

**Executive Director**

Kirsten Cooper

**Office Manager**

Kelly Brodhagen

**Events Coordinator**

Melissa Vande Velden

ASW Board Meeting  
January 16, 2016